

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PC-01 /016 W
-----024142 240430Z /63
R 211500Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6087
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUAYAQUIL 0660

FOR ARA/AND ACTION

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASIG, EC
SUBJ: INSPECTION REPORT COMPLIANCE

REF: BARNEBY LTR. DATE APRIL 3, 1978

1. 9.3-1 ALL FILES IN THE CONSULAR SECTION ARE IN THE PROCESS OF BEING REVIEWED FOR (A) LONG TERM STORAGE (B) DISPOSAL OR SHORT TERM STORAGE AND SUBSEQUENT DISPOSAL. WELFARE AND WHEREABOUTS AND CITIZEN SHIP FILES IN PARTICULAR ARE BEING REVIEWED AND BOUND INDIVIDUALLY WITH CLIPS AND PLACED IN BETTER CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER.

2. 9.3-4 THE ASSIGNMENT OF A MARINE GUARD DETACHMENT WAS POSTPONED. THE EMBASSY, CONSULATE GENERAL AND RSO WILL REVIEW THE THREAT SITUATION IN GUAYAQUIL PERIODICALLY. THE RSO RECENTLY MADE AN INSPECTION OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL. THE EMBASSY WILL GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO THE CARRYING OUT OF THE RSO'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. 9.3-5 THE CONSULATE GENERAL STRONGLY DISAGREES WITH THE INSPECTORS ON THE QUESTION OF THE RETENTION OF THE PRESENT OFFICE/RESIDENTIAL BUILDING IN FAVOR OF A NEW OFFICE BUILDING. IT IS BELIEVED THAT
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THE INSPECTORS DURING THEIR SHORT STAY DID NOT ACQUIRE A FULL APPRECIATION OF THE PROBLEMS INHERENT IN THE PRESENT BUILDING AND THAT PRESENT GERRYMANDERING AND JURY-RIGGING OF SPACES HAVE REACHED THEIR LIMITS OF APPLICABILITY AND PRACTICABILITY. FBO HAS GIVEN RECOGNITION TO THE HIGH COST FOR REHABILITATING THE RESIDENTIAL AND TRANSIENT QUARTERS AND DECIDED THAT SUCH REMODELLING WAS NOT COST EFFECTIVE AND WOULD NOT BUDGET FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE. LIKEWISE,

THE PECULIAR ARRANGEMENT OF THE GROUND FLOOR DOES NOT LEND ITSELF TO EFFECTIVE SOLUTION OF CONSULAR PROBLEMS AND CROWD MANAGEMENT. UPPER FLOOR SPACES CANNOT BE USED FOR CONSULAR AND COMMERCIAL WORK FOR SECURITY AND GENERAL SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS.

LIVING IN THE OFFICE BUILDING IS A DEFINITE MORALE FACTOR FOR SOME OF THE STAFF MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY CONSULAR OFFICERS WHO ARE DRAINED MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY EACH DAY BECAUSE OF WORK PRESSURES, AND LIVING WITHIN THE BUILDING DOES NOT OFFER RELIEF THAT LEAVING THE BUILDING FOR A DISTANT HOME WOULD AFFORD. MORE NEWLY ARRIVED OFFICERS WHO WOULD NORMALLY HAVE LIVING QUARTERS IN THE BUILDING ARE OPTING FOR PRIVATE LEASE QUARTERS UNDER A REVISED ARA POLICY FOR THIS POST.

THE ACQUISITION OF NEW PREMISES IN A "SWAP" ARRANGEMENT OFFERS THE POSSIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTING QUARTERS DESIGNED FOR OUR SPECIFIC CONSULAR AND COMMERCIAL NEEDS BUILT IN A MODERN AND FUNCTIONAL STYLE; SUFFICIENT GROUND MAY BE ACQUIRED WHICH WOULD ENABLE THE CONSTRUCTION OF STAFF HOUSING AS WELL, ALL OF WHICH WOULD RESULT IN A SIGNIFICANT NET BENEFIT TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. IF THE CONSULATE GENERAL WERE TO SELL ITS PARKING LOT IT WOULD HAVE NO SPACE (CORRECT TO READ: PLACE) TO PUT ITS VEHICLES OTHER THAN THE STREET, AN UNSAFE AND UNACCEPTABLE SITUATION.

4. 9.3-10 NO ACTION CAN BE TAKEN ON THIS UNTIL FBO DECIDES WHETHER OR NOT A "SWAP" ARRANGEMENT CAN BE WORKED OUT. IF A NEW OFFICE
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BUILDING DOES NOT MATERIALIZE, THEN THE CONSULATE GENERAL WILL PROCEED WITH A MAJOR RENOVATION REQUEST FOR THE EXISTING BUILDING.

5. 9.3-11 MONTHLY CASH VERIFICATIONS ARE BEING DONE IN CONFORMITY WITH CA-688, WITH DAILY DEPOSITS OF CONSULAR FEES WITH THE CASHIER AND AT LEAST ONE ANNOUNCED AND ONE UNANNOUNCED AUDIT MONTHLY BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND AD HOC INSPECTIONS BY EMBASSYS BM OFFICER.

6. 9.3-13 THE CONSULATE GENERAL AND THE EMBASSY HAVE HAD A NUMBER OF MEETINGS TO EVALUATE THE RESULTS OF THE 1977 GUAYAQUIL INTERNATIONAL FAIR, AND HAVE KEPT STATE AND COMMERCE INFORMED OF OUR JOINT VIEWS REGARDING PARTICIPATION IN THE 1979 FAIR.

7. 9.3-14 RECRUITMENT FOR THE CONSULATE GENERAL'S FSL ECONOMIC SPECIALIST CANNOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS HE ANNOUNCES A DEFINITE DATE FOR RETIREMENT.

8. 9.3-16 THE CONSULATE GENERAL HAS TAKEN NOTE OF THIS RECOMMENDATION

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AND WHEN THE NEXT AUDIT OF THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF GUAYAQUIL FUNDS IS
MADE A STATEMENT IN THE AUDIT REPORT WILL BE REQUESTED ON THE
EXPENDITURE OF U.S. GOVERNMENT FUNDS IN ACCORD WITH THE GRANT
AGREEMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GUAYAQ00660
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780174-0064
Format: TEL
From: GUAYAQUIL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780432/aaaabaqv.tel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1a21efa9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2895520
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INSPECTION REPORT COMPLIANCE
TAGS: ASIG, EC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1a21efa9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014